

Agenda with Notes
Coastal Clean Energy RTF
10:00 AM, December 16, 2014
Second Floor Conference Room, OCRM offices
1362 McMillan Ave, North Charleston

10:00 Welcome and Introductions – Trish Jerman, SCEO

Members in the room and on the phone introduced themselves.

10:15 Update on BOEM plans and timelines – Brian Krevor, BOEM

Brian referred to the map distributed to those in the room and attached here, and described a timeline which will result in work to “whittle down” the very large area under consideration and a call for information and nomination in wind energy areas being released “later this year.”

Recommendations will be presented to the BOEM Task Force prior to public release. He asked the group to submit relevant data directly to him (brian.krevor@boem.gov) or through the Energy Office. He was particularly interested in information regarding birds in and around Cape Romaine, and Mark Caldwell of FWS offered to get available information into BOEM hands.

Next steps will include preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the process of assessment only, then after leases are granted, a full Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared, taking into account actual construction and operation plans.

**10:45 SC/BOEM Cooperative Research Project -- Rick DeVoe, SC Sea Grant & Brian Krevor, BOEM
Paul Gayes, Coastal Carolina University
Camelia Knapp, ESRI/USC
Jim Spirek, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology**

Brian Krevor introduced the process of creating cooperative research agreements between state and federal agencies, noting that BOEM scientists will play a significant part by joining dives and analyzing data. The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement approach is to allow research to begin quickly. This particular project will focus on identifying hard bottom areas, unexploded ordinance and cultural resources. Rick DeVoe, Director of SC Sea Grant, which is coordinating the project, gave an overview presentation (attached) and opened the floor for additions from co-PIs Paul Gayes and Camelia Knapp, as well as Jim Spirek by phone. Dr. Gayes provided additional details about the methods to be used.

The group discussed the appropriate distribution of effort, given that resources are limited and the areas to be considered are very large. Initially the group planned to concentrate on the northernmost areas outlined on the research map (attached.) Brian O’Hara suggested there was value in concentrating efforts in a smaller area, Rick DeVoe suggested “hedging bets” by obtaining at least some information on each area, but after strong interest was expressed by Santee Cooper’s representative, it was agreed that research efforts would focus on the two northernmost blocks designated on the research map as well as one block in the lower research area. Additional resources could then be deployed as appropriate based on new information about industry interest, conflicting interests, etc.

The group also discussed the issue of interest areas, with Brian O’Hara reiterating the value of a small area, and Pace Wilbur noting that after he checked the concentrations of hard bottom areas, he no longer felt it was necessary to consider the entire area (as opposed to the truncated map shown at the BOEM Task Force meeting.)

There was discussion of oil and gas exploration activity in the same general area. While there is strong interest in the port of Georgetown, research would focus on a much deeper area, so it is unlikely that geophysical data gathered in support of oil and gas exploration will also support wind leases. As an aside, leasing permits are being reviewed for consistency by the OCRM.

11:15 Additional Items as Appropriate

Local government activities – Pawley’s Island resolution opposing turbines in sight of land was distributed (Attached)

Legislative initiatives – Prefiled legislation allowing cost recovery for utilities for wind related research was distributed. (Attached)

From the floor: Rick DeVoe raised the issue of capitalizing on the diverse nature of the task force to expand discussions to consider all matters related to offshore energy. Camelia Knapp told the group this would be a good complement to an energy institute that her organization is developing to focus on multi-university research related to energy.

11:45 Adjourn